

Winfield Scott to Andrew Jackson, December 11, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT TO JACKSON.¹

¹ This letter is in the Jackson MSS. On a copy sold by the Anderson Galleries in New York, April, 1920, was the following memorandum by General Scott:

"It had been currently reported (and believed by many persons), probably without foundation, that Genl. Jackson would assault or challenge me the first time we should meet. Hence I had, for six days, frequented the Capitol and other public places in Washington where he was likely to be found before this note was written to him.— Winfield Scott." See also Scott's *Memoirs*, pp. 200–203.

Georgetown, December 11, 1823.

Sir: One portion of the American community has long attributed to you the most distinguished magnanimity, and another portion the greatest desperation in your resentments. Am I to conclude that both are equally in error? I allude to circumstances which have transpired between us (and which need not here be recapitulated) and to the fact, that I have now been six days in your immediate vicinity without having attracted your notice.

As this is the first time in my life that I have been within a hundred miles of you, and as it is barely possible that you may be ignorant of my presence, I beg leave to state that I shall not leave the District before the morning of the 14th instant.

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I have the honour to be,